

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for adjusting the position of a steering wheel in a vehicle comprising:
 - a lower steering column jacket for attachment to a vehicle;
 - an upper steering column jacket engaged for telescoping movement with said lower steering column jacket for supporting a steering wheel in a desired longitudinal position relative to said lower steering column jacket;
 - a tilt housing engaged for tilting movement with said upper steering column jacket for supporting the steering wheel in a desired angular position relative to said upper steering column jacket; and
 - a single locking device for limiting said telescoping movement and said tilting movement.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said single locking device is further defined as being slidably associated with said lower steering column jacket and pivotally associated with said tilt housing and selectively associated with said upper steering column jacket.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said single locking device includes a linking member extending parallel to said upper steering column jacket and connected to said tilt housing for linear movement in response to said tilting movement of said tilt housing.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said linking member includes a first end pivotally associated with said tilt housing and a second end slidably engaged with said lower steering column jacket.
5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said single locking device includes a wedge member disposed between said upper steering column jacket and said linking member and being moveable to a locked position to urge said linking member and said upper steering column jacket away from one another in a direction transverse to said

linear movement of said linking member.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said lower steering column jacket defines an aperture with an enlarged portion wherein said wedge member extends through said enlarged portion.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said lower steering column jacket is further defined as including a guide having an aperture for receiving said second end.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said single locking device includes first engaging element fixedly associated with said upper steering column jacket and adjacent to said wedging element.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said single locking device includes second engaging element movably associated with said lower steering column jacket and adjacent to said linking member.

10. An apparatus for adjusting the position of a steering wheel in a vehicle comprising:

a lower steering column jacket for attachment to a vehicle;

an upper steering column jacket engaged for telescoping movement with said lower steering column jacket for supporting a steering wheel in a desired longitudinal position relative to said lower steering column jacket;

a tilt housing engaged for tilting movement with said upper steering column jacket for supporting the steering wheel in a desired angular position relative to said upper steering column jacket; and

a single locking device for limiting said telescoping movement and said tilting movement including a linking member extending parallel to and spaced from said upper steering column and having a first end pivotally connected to said tilt housing and a second end slidably connected to said lower steering column jacket wherein said linking member moves linearly in response to said telescoping movement and said tilting movement.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said first end is further defined as being adjustably connected to said tilt housing.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said single locking device includes a wedge member disposed adjacent to said second end of said linking member and being moveable to a locked position to urge said linking member and said upper steering column jacket away from one another in a direction transverse to said linear movement of said linking member.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said lower steering column jacket is further defined as including a guide having an aperture for receiving said second end and a second aperture for receiving said wedge member.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said lower steering column jacket defines a third aperture and said wedge member extends through said third aperture.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein aperture includes an enlarged portion and said single locking device includes an engaging element disposed in said enlarged portion.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said engaging element is adjustably positioned relative to said linking member.

17. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said second aperture is further defined as communicating with said enlarged portion.

18. An apparatus for adjusting the position of a steering wheel in a vehicle comprising:

a lower steering column jacket for attachment to a vehicle;
an upper steering column jacket engaged for telescoping movement with

said lower steering column jacket for supporting a steering wheel in a desired longitudinal position relative to said lower steering column jacket;

a tilt housing engaged for tilting movement with said upper steering column jacket for supporting the steering wheel in a desired angular position relative to said upper steering column jacket; and

a single locking device for limiting said telescoping movement and said tilting movement including a linking member extending parallel to and spaced from said upper steering column and having a first end pivotally connected to said tilt housing and a second end slidably connected to said lower steering column jacket wherein said linking member moves linearly in response to said telescoping movement and said tilting movement and said single locking device also including a wedge member rotatably associated with said lower steering column jacket and being moveable between a locked position and unlocked position.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said wedge member defines a pair of first surfaces extending substantially parallel to one another and spaced from one another a first distance wherein said first distance is great than a second distance defined between said linking member and said upper steering column jacket.

20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said wedge member is received in a notch defined by said linking member.